

gets the best possible value out of its expenditures. The bill requires that an enhanced system of incentives be put in place to encourage employees to reach performance goals. Finally, H.R. 5013 will require that all companies receiving DOD contracts are subjected to comprehensive audits that ensure that their federal dollars are spent wisely and efficiently.

I have long been an advocate of increased government efficiency and accountability. As the holder of a master's degree in business administration and a former employee in the private sector, I understand the importance of government being as economically efficient as possible. At a time of economic hardship across in the United States, government should spend its money carefully and efficiently, just like households and businesses across the country.

Moreover, increased efficient and accountability is the fair thing for the American people. The American people deserve a government that works for them. If government is going to spend their hard-earned tax-payer dollars, it must do so in a way that gets the best possible value out of every single dollar. H.R. 5013 will help achieve this goal. By ensuring that the DOD limits waste, this bill will play a critical part in the effort to run our government more effectively and in a way that protects the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5013.

IN HONOR OF JAMES E. BENNETT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself, Representative FRANK WOLF, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Representative JIM MORAN, Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and Representative GERALD CONNOLLY to recognize James E. Bennett, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Airports Authority, who has announced his retirement after 14 years of exceptional public service to the agency, the region, and the Nation. During his tenure at the Airports Authority, Mr. Bennett expertly guided the significant expansion and modernization of Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, while simultaneously undertaking the challenge of managing the Dulles Toll Road and constructing the long planned Metrorail line to Dulles Airport and Loudoun County.

Whether one is a visitor to either of these world-class airports or watching the construction of the Metrorail line, it is not difficult to appreciate the bold vision and many accomplishments of Jim Bennett. Reagan National and Dulles International Airports combined served a total of more than 40 million passengers in 2009. In difficult economic times, both airports retained service to all top 50 domestic markets, bringing valuable, new air service to the metropolitan Washington region. Mr. Bennett's leadership also brought to completion \$3 billion of capital development projects, providing improved passenger service and enhanced ability to accommodate increased air service and passenger volume.

At Dulles International, a new security mezzanine and the state-of-the-art AeroTrain, were recently put into service. These monumental improvements return Dulles International to the form and function that Architect Eero Saarinen, envisioned for this beautiful landmark when it opened in 1962. At Reagan National, Mr. Bennett guided the addition of expanded parking and completion of a new Public Safety Communications Center to expand the Airports Authority's emergency operations capabilities.

In everything Jim Bennett has done, the interests of the public have been paramount. He has guided reinvestments in Washington Dulles and Reagan National Airports ensuring that these valuable facilities are equipped to serve travelers throughout the next decades, continuing to be important economic catalysts, providing jobs and business development opportunities for the region. He took on the Dulles Metrorail Project, proposing an innovative financing plan to bring transit service to Dulles Airport and the entire Dulles Corridor. The project is on budget and on schedule, indicative of Mr. Bennett's stellar management skills.

This region has had the unique benefit of having had one the country's finest airport managers, as well as a consummate public servant, in Jim Bennett. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his leadership, integrity, humility and inspiration. I ask that my colleagues join me and the National Capital region in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Jim Bennett for his vision and legacy of transportation improvements that he has left for the region and the Nation.

HONORING IWAO MATSUDA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my longtime friend and respected colleague, Iwao Matsuda. Matsuda-san is arriving in Washington today for a meeting of the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program, a project he founded to encourage meaningful dialogue between our two countries. He has a long and honorable history of service to Japan as an elected official, first in the House of Representatives and later in the House of Councilors in the Diet. Matsuda-san has always been interested in resolving tensions and improving the relationship between the United States and Japan, and it was this drive that led to the creation and continuing success of the Legislative Exchange Program.

Members of the Diet and the Congress have grown to understand the importance of the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program. The two delegations have had the privilege of getting to know each other, and if there is ever a problem, we know who to call to find out more about it. These personal connections are vital to creating understanding between our legislatures and our nations. But I would like to point out another facet of Matsuda-san's contribution. Not only has he helped us to know each other and to create personal relationships, but his work has transcended his own personal relationships and left us all with an enduring legacy.

I honor my friend Matsuda-san's life and work, and I wish him a peaceful retirement. My colleagues and I will never forget his kind hospitality, both in official and personal settings, and I look forward to continuing our friendship in the years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplished students who earned the Certificate of Congressional Merit for their exemplary citizenship and academic excellence. Eleven students from Minnesota's Sixth District were nominated by their schools for this prestigious award and it is a great privilege to be able to share their accomplishments with this Congress.

These students have shown that they can set and achieve goals, work as a team member or a leader, and contribute to a larger cause all while making time for study and friendships as well. They have made significant contributions to their schools and communities and stand out to faculty and staff as students that would never ask for recognitions for their efforts.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to honor these 11 students for their successful high school careers and to wish them all the best in their bright futures: Kaia Larson, Meadow Creek Christian School; Kara Peterson, Becker High School; Danielle Liebl, Rocori High School; Taylor Haag, Paynesville Area High School; Matthew Vogel, Saint Francis High School; Zachary Johnson, Monticello High School; Duy Nguyen, Spring Lake Park High School; Travis Taylor, New Life Academy; Sandra Arnold, Delano High School; Emily Bloch, Immaculate Conception Academy; and Kelsey Vigoren, Kimball Area High School.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating these students for their hard work and wishing them the best of luck. As the Irish poet and Noble Peace Prize winner William Butler Yeats said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." In these students, a fire has been lit. They are the bright future we have to look forward to in Minnesota, and in our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,876,734,073,745.72.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,288,594,800,033.30 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.